

PROCLAMATION OF AN ERADICATION PROJECT
REGARDING THE ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY

Between July 27 and August 12, 2010, three wild male oriental fruit flies were trapped in the cities of Fontana and Rancho Cucamonga, San Bernardino County. Based on the evidence presented to me by my staff, outside experts familiar with the fly, and the trapping data, I have determined that an established infestation of oriental fruit fly exists.

The oriental fruit fly, *Bactrocera* (= *Dacus*) *dorsalis* Hendel, is an exotic insect which has a long history of being a serious pest of tropical and subtropical fruits in Southwest Asia and most of the Pacific Islands. Following introduction into the Hawaiian Islands in the 1940's, this fly multiplied rapidly, and currently is known to infest more than 125 different host fruits in the state of Hawaii. Worldwide, over 230 different kinds of fruits and vegetables are attacked. The oriental fruit fly is one of the most serious pests of agriculture in Hawaii, India, Burma, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indochina, the Philippines, Taiwan, Ryukyu Islands, and Micronesia. Important California crops which would be infested include pome and stone fruits, citrus, dates, avocados, and certain vegetables, particularly tomatoes and peppers. Damage occurs when the female lays eggs in the fruit. These eggs hatch into larvae, or maggots, which tunnel through the flesh of the fruit, making it unfit for consumption. First found in California in 1960, the oriental fruit fly has been detected every year in California since 1966. The first California eradication project occurred in San Diego in 1974, and since that time, numerous major infestations have been delimited and successfully eradicated.

As Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), I have decided, based upon the possible economic damage which could be inflicted by an established infestation of the oriental fruit fly, that under my statutory authority, it is incumbent on me to attempt to eradicate the oriental fruit fly and its life stages from California. It has been estimated that the cost of not eradicating oriental fruit fly in California would range from \$44 million to \$176 million in crop losses, additional pesticide use and quarantine restrictions.

This decision to proceed with an eradication program is based upon a realistic evaluation that it may be possible to eradicate the oriental fruit fly using currently available technology in the same manner as has been successfully used to eliminate previous infestations.

My duty to act, and this decision, is based upon authority set forth in Section 3591.2 of Title 3 of the California Code of Regulations, Sections 401.5, 403, 407, 408, 5321-5323 and especially 5761-5763 of the Food and Agricultural Code.

Following is a listing of the options that I have considered for eradication of this oriental fruit fly infestation: 1) male attractant treatment using bait stations; 2) supplemental ground spray; and 3) mass trapping. There are also control options that I have considered; they are biological control and host removal. The control options are utilized when eradication is no longer possible. Based on previous eradication projects, it is possible to eradicate this infestation due to the size of the area that is infested and number of oriental fruit flies detected. Therefore, based upon input from outside experts familiar with the fly and my professional staff, I am ordering that male attractant treatments consisting of methyl eugenol, naled, and a thickener be applied to the eradication area to eliminate this

infestation. In addition, spinosad bait spray treatments may be applied using ground based equipment to host trees within a 200 meter radius of the detection site. A description of the options are contained in the attached work plan. In issuing this decision, I have considered pesticidal and non-pesticidal options. I find that non-pesticidal options do not exist to effectively eradicate or control the oriental fruit fly. I have determined that these actions are necessary to prevent or mitigate the establishment of the oriental fruit fly in California.

CDFA has prepared and certified a Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) entitled "The Exotic Fruit Fly Eradication Program Utilizing Male Annihilation and Allied Methods," that is implemented as per the operations described above. This FEIR addresses the eradication of exotic fruit fly pests at the program level and provides guidance for the conduct of future emergency actions against these pests. It identifies feasible alternatives and feasible mitigation measures to be implemented in individual exotic fruit fly pest eradication emergencies. I have, to the extent feasible, incorporated the mitigation measures as described in the EIR. In accordance with Section 21105 of the Public Resources Code, this FEIR has been filed with the appropriate local planning agency of all affected cities and counties. I detected no local condition which would justify or necessitate preparation of a site specific plan.

Eradication Plan

The eradication area includes those portions of San Bernardino County which fall within an approximate nine square mile area around each property on which an adult fly has been trapped or on which another life stage of the insect is found to be present. A map of the detection site with eradication boundaries and the proposed eradication work plan are attached. In summary form, the work plan will contain the following elements:

- a. Delimitation. Two types of traps will be placed throughout the project area to delimit the infestation and to monitor post-treatment fly populations. Jackson traps and McPhail traps will each be placed at a density of 25 per square mile in the core areas, and Jackson traps at five per square mile in the remaining delimitation area. Additional traps may be added to further delimit the infestation and to determine the efficacy of treatments. Both trap types will be serviced on a regular schedule for a period equal to three fly generations beyond the date of the last fly detected.
- b. Treatment. Any OFF detections within the original and/or expanded eradication area(s) will be treated according to the following protocol. The male attractant technique will be the primary eradication tool. A minimum of 600 evenly spaced bait stations of Naled/methyl eugenol mixture will be applied to street trees in each square mile within the eradication project boundaries. Based on the oriental fruit fly treatment protocol (nine square miles around each detection site), a total of 11.6 square miles will be treated. Treatments will be repeated at two-week intervals for up to two life cycles beyond the last fly detected (as determined by a life cycle model driven by accumulated day degrees). Foliar sprays may be extended up to a 200-meter radius if trap catches warrant it. Fruit stripping will also occur 100-meters around all known larval infested and adjacent properties.

Sensitive Areas

The eradication zone has been examined and the location of the threatened and endangered species have been identified. The CDFA will not apply pesticides to undeveloped areas of native vegetation or areas where endangered species exist. All treatments will be applied to residential properties and within urban developments.

Public Notification

Public information concerning the oriental fruit fly project will consist of press releases to the general public. Press releases are prepared by the San Bernardino County Agricultural Commissioner's Office in close coordination with the CDFA. Either the county agricultural commissioner or the public information officer then serves as the primary contact to the media.

Any resident whose property will be treated following the determination of a breeding population (egg, larvae or mated female) on or near their property will be notified prior to treatment. A breeding population will necessitate an immediate eradication response due to the potential for natural dispersal and infested fruit to be artificially moved out of the area.

If you have specific questions related to this program, please contact the CDFA Pest Hotline at (800) 491-1899.